

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Recommendations for the 2018 Farm Bill



The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics works with Congress to pass a Farm Bill that maintains the integrity of nutrition assistance programs, ensures vital nutrition education and nutrition research funding and enhances access of healthy food.

The Farm Bill ensures we have a safe and affordable food supply that enhances the health of the nation.

The last Farm Bill titled, the Agricultural Act of 2014 was signed into law on February 7, 2014 and is now up for reauthorization in 2018.

The Academy's Farm Bill Work Group has created recommendations for Congress.

ACADEMY OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS FARM BILL RECOMMENDATIONS

Empower Consumers: Drive Demand Toward Healthful Foods and Reduce Food Waste

Goal: Nutrition education programs in the Farm Bill are tailored to participants' help make lifelong healthful behavior changes.

The Academy supports:

- Sufficient funding for effective and innovative programs: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Grant Program (SNAP-Ed) and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP).
- Opportunities to assure program effectiveness and efficiencies in public nutrition education and assistance programs to increase consumer behavior change.
- Initiatives to reduce consumer food waste.
- Funding for necessary leadership within the USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services and specifically in the regional offices on nutrition and nutrition education issues.

About Us:

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is committed to:

- Improving the health of Americans by assuring access to a healthy, safe, affordable and adequate food supply.
- Ensuring that quality nutrition services and appropriate nutrition education are integral components included in nutrition assistance programs.

The Academy's guiding principle is our commitment to improving health for all, especially those most susceptible to — and who experience — food insecurity and is the basis for our recommendations.

Ensure Sound Science and Program Evaluation for Future Evidence-Based Decision Making

Goal: Strong science informs development of nutrition program content and high-quality, systematic evaluation provides guidance for structuring consumer education implementation and delivery systems.

The Academy supports:

- Establishment of a consistent USDA funding authorization to accomplish the requirements in the 1990 National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act.
- Improvements to *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*
- Provision of sufficient funding for the completion of the Pregnancy and Birth to 24 Months nutrition guidance project, as required in the Agricultural Act of 2014.
- Increased funding for vital primary agricultural and nutrition research
- Evaluation funding and program expertise be required for projects that examine ways to improve health outcomes related to nutrition status.
- Continue to strengthen of linkages to nutrition programming and nutrition education research through the Interagency Committee on Human Nutrition Research

Support Innovative Nutrition Assistance Programs to Improve Access to Healthful, Affordable and Safe Foods

Goal: Domestic and International Nutrition Safety Nets Are Protected and Strengthened by Streamlining Administrative Requirements for All Nutrition Assistance Programs and Coordinating Healthful Food Production with Nutrition Assistance Programs.

The Academy supports:

- Current structure of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- Increasing the SNAP benefit level to prevent hunger and provide resources to help families make healthful food choices and support updated standards for SNAP retailers that increase the availability of healthful foods.

- Reauthorization of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and increase funding to provide an opportunity for the two remaining states (Alabama and Wyoming) to participate in the program.
- Funding for the successful, research-based Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentives grants, which provide financial incentives for families to purchase healthful foods.

Support the Food Supply Chain: Producers and Retailers That Create a Healthful and Safe Food System and Reduces Food Waste

Goal: Support Producers and Retailers to Meet Demand for Healthful Foods.

The Academy supports:

- Funding and federal support for a variety of community-based and regional agriculture and food access initiatives including: Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Programs, Senior and WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Programs, Community Food Projects and Value-Added Producer Grants.
- Farm practices and policies that conserve soil, water, air, habitat and biodiversity, as these are essential to our survival.
- Policies and programs to assure the next generation of farmers has access to land, skills and incentives to grow healthful foods.
- Funding for the Specialty Crop Block Grants to support food safety and drive demand through education for specialty crops to increase dietary diversity as an aid to help people achieve the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
- Reauthorization of the Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI).
- Funding pilot projects that test innovative approaches to delivery of groceries.
- Support community efforts to reach isolated older adults to provide healthful food options to help maintain their independence.
- Initiatives to reduce pre and post-consumer food waste throughout the food system.